

*gunders*

May 28, 1956

Dear Norton:

While Rollin was visiting Madison a while ago I had a hunch about protoplasts, and in fact asked him: what would *E. coli* do in penicillin plus suorosa. He didn't know, so I did a Saturday afternoon experiment, which rather surprisingly worked out, as you see from the enclosure. You're the first person outside the lab that ~~is~~ I've brought this up with; from what I've heard, Sol Spiegelman is so wrapped up with lactase synthesis by wall fragments (! ?) that his interest in this may be less acute than formerly; I don't know who else besides yourself would be immediately interested. Anyhow, here it is, and I hope the method is some help ~~to~~ to you, whether ~~unknown~~ your mysterious extract does the same thing or not.

I am particularly intrigued by the high viability of these beasts, and am trying to see whether we can get any genetic effects detectable in the viable clones from them. I gathered your potential interests were somewhat broader, but anyhow here's one more tool.

Will we see you at Baltimore? I don't think we'll be by for the CSH symposium, but we might manage to get east later on in the summer.

Nothing much else new. I'm spending most of my time trying to write up chains! That's been the darndest thing to try to organize the data on.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

*John*